

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## LEAD IN OCTOBER 2005

Domestic mine production, based on the net quantity of lead recovered from concentrate, was 37,900 metric tons (t) in October, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. This was a decrease of about 1% compared with production in September 2005 and an increase of about 5% compared with that of October 2004. Secondary refined lead production (95,900 t) increased slightly more than 3% compared with that of the previous month, and reported consumption of lead (122,000 t) was relatively unchanged compared with that of September. When compared with that of October 2004, secondary production was down by about 1%, and reported consumption was up by about 7%.

According to Platts Metals Week published quotations, the average October North American producer price increased nominally, about 0.4%, from that of the previous month to 60.82 cents per pound and was also about 0.4% higher than the October 2004 price. The London Metal Exchange Ltd. (LME) cash price in October ranged from a low of \$970 per metric ton

(October 5) to a high of \$1,035 per metric ton (October 31), and averaged \$1,004.17 per metric ton, about an 8% increase compared with the September price and also an 8% increase compared with the price in October 2004. During October, global LME lead stocks increased by 10,250 t to finish the month at 49,250 t.

The National Defense Stockpile aggregated cash disposal (sale) of lead in October, under the monthly Basic Ordering Agreement DLA-Lead-005, was 1,940 t (2,140 short tons), with an approximate value of \$1.99 million (Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005).

## Reference Cited

Defense National Stockpile Center, 2005, Stockpile announces lead BOA sales for October 2005: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense National Stockpile Center news release, November 8, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT LEAD STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content, unless otherwise specified)

	2004		2005		
	Year	January - October	September	October	January - October
Production:					
Mine (recoverable)	430,000	363,000 <sup>r</sup>	38,200 <sup>r</sup>	37,900	357,000
Primary refinery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary refinery:					
Reported by smelters/refineries	1,120,000	931,000	90,800	93,800	925,000
Estimated	11,300	9,410 <sup>r</sup>	917	947	9,340
Recovered from copper-base scrap <sup>c</sup>	15,000	12,500	1,250	1,250	12,500
Total secondary	1,140,000	953,000	93,000	95,900	947,000
Stocks, end of period:					
Primary refineries	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Secondary smelters and consumers	W	W	58,300	60,900	60,900
Imports for consumption:					
Ore and concentrate	3	3	--	NA	29 <sup>2</sup>
Refined metal	197,000	157,000	25,000	NA	216,000 <sup>2</sup>
Consumption:					
Reported	1,480,000	1,230,000 <sup>r</sup>	122,000 <sup>r</sup>	122,000	1,220,000
Undistributed <sup>c</sup>	44,300	38,100 <sup>r</sup>	3,790 <sup>r</sup>	3,790	37,700
Total	1,520,000	1,270,000 <sup>r</sup>	126,000 <sup>r</sup>	126,000	1,260,000
Exports:					
Ore and concentrate	292,000	266,000	89,800	NA	350,000 <sup>2</sup>
Bullion	129	102	--	NA	134 <sup>2</sup>
Wrought and unwrought lead	82,400	70,400	3,000	NA	43,400 <sup>2</sup>
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	1,020	609	30	NA	1,140 <sup>2</sup>
Exports (gross weight): Scrap	56,300	46,000	4,760	NA	51,300 <sup>2</sup>
Platts Metals Week North American producer price (cents per pound)	55.14	54.03	60.60	60.82	60.67

<sup>c</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes data for January - September only; October data were not available at time of publication.

TABLE 2  
MONTHLY AVERAGE LEAD PRICES

	North American producer price cents/lb	LME		Sterling exchange rate dollars/£
		\$/metric ton	£/metric ton	
2004:				
October	60.60	931.91	515.39	1.808175
December	60.73	974.39	505.22	1.928639
Year	55.14	885.95	483.26	1.832475
2005:				
August	60.46	886.53	494.05	1.794426
September	60.60	932.27	516.05	1.806548
October	60.82	1,004.17	568.91	1.765090

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF PURCHASED LEAD-BASE SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, gross weight)

Item	Stocks September 30, 2005	Net receipts	Consumption	Stocks October 31, 2005
Battery-lead	19,500 <sup>r</sup>	90,300	91,200	18,700
Soft lead	W	W	W	W
Drosses and residues	W	W	W	W
Other <sup>2</sup>	7,820 <sup>r</sup>	5,090	5,100	7,810
Total	27,300 <sup>r</sup>	95,400	96,300	26,500
Percent change from preceding month	XX	0.3	1.3	-3.2

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes solder, common babbitt, antimonial lead, cable covering, type metals, and other lead-base scrap not elsewhere classified.

TABLE 4  
LEAD, TIN, AND ANTIMONY RECOVERED FROM  
LEAD-BASE SCRAP IN OCTOBER 2005<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Product recovered	Secondary metal content		
	Lead	Tin	Antimony
Soft and calcium lead	69,100	--	--
Remelt lead	W	--	--
Antimonial lead	24,300	(2)	(2)
Other <sup>3</sup>	378	(2)	(2)
Total lead-base	93,800	149	359

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other." -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>3</sup>Includes cable lead, lead-base babbitt, solder, type metals, and other products.

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION OF LEAD IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Use	2004		2005		
	January - December	January - October <sup>f</sup>	September	October	January - October
Metal products:					
Ammunition, shot and bullets	61,500	51,300	5,430 <sup>f</sup>	5,150	49,500
Brass and bronze, billet and ingots	4,190	3,490	382	367	2,990
Cable covering, power and communication and calking lead, building construction	5,540	4,610	497	414	5,820
Casting metals	17,900	14,900	1,490	1,500	14,900
Sheet lead, pipes, traps and other extruded products	32,400	27,000	2,720 <sup>f</sup>	2,860	27,200
Solder	7,440	6,200	543	550	6,080
Storage batteries, including oxides	1,290,000	1,070,000	106,000 <sup>f</sup>	107,000	1,060,000
Terne metal, type metal, and other metal products <sup>2</sup>	1,770	1,480	185	185	1,840
Total metal products	1,420,000	1,180,000	118,000	118,000	1,170,000
Other oxides and miscellaneous	59,600	49,700	4,800	4,650	47,200
Total reported	1,480,000	1,230,000	122,000 <sup>f</sup>	122,000	1,220,000
Undistributed <sup>e</sup>	44,300	38,100	3,790 <sup>f</sup>	3,790	37,700
Grand total	1,520,000	1,270,000	126,000 <sup>f</sup>	126,000	1,260,000

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>f</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes lead consumed in foil, collapsible tubes, annealing, plating, galvanizing, and fishing weights.

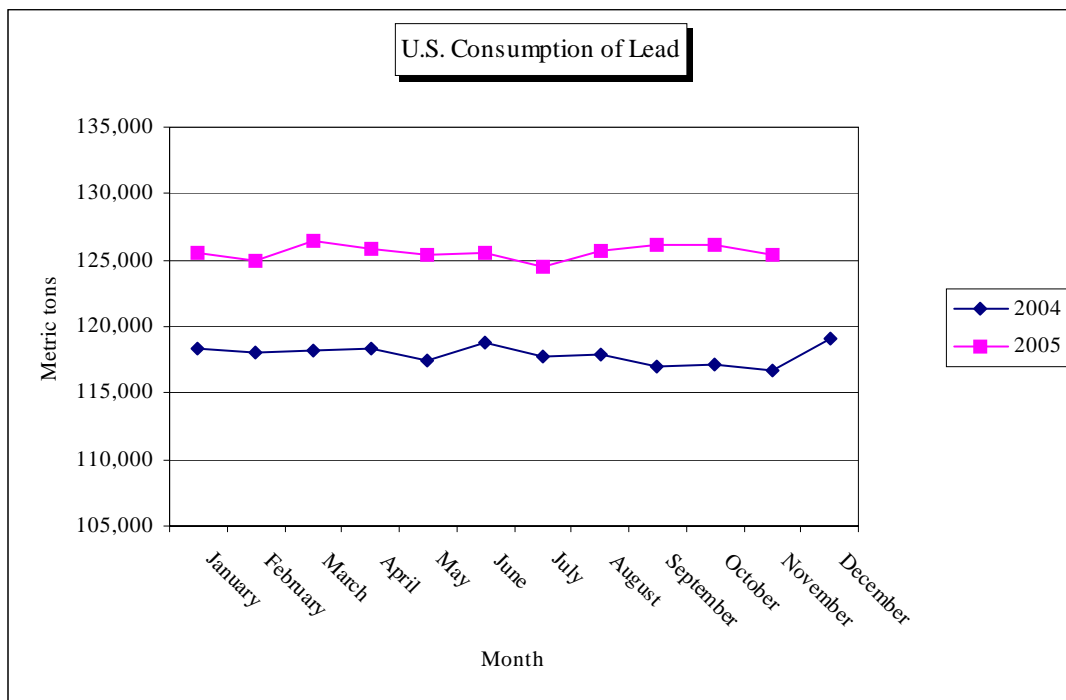


TABLE 6  
CONSUMER AND SECONDARY SMELTER STOCKS, RECEIPTS,  
AND CONSUMPTION OF LEAD<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Type of material	Stocks		Consumption	Stocks October 31, 2005
	September 30, 2005	Net receipts		
Soft lead	32,500	67,300	66,500	33,300
Antimonial lead	9,690 <sup>r</sup>	37,400	35,600	11,500
Lead alloys	W	W	W	W
Copper-base scrap	W	W	W	W
Total	58,300	124,000	122,000	60,900

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF LEAD, BY CLASS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	2004		2005		
	September	Year	August	September	January - September
Lead content:					
Ore and concentrates	25,300	292,000	161,000	89,800	350,000
Bullion	18 <sup>r</sup>	129	41	--	134
Materials excluding scrap	6,120	82,400	5,940	3,000	43,400
TEL/TML preparations, based on lead compounds	5 <sup>r</sup>	1,020	51	30	1,140
Total	31,500	375,000	167,000	92,900	394,000
Gross weight: Scrap	3,850	56,300	5,570	4,760	51,300

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS OF LEAD BY TYPE OF MATERIALS AND BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, lead content)

Country of origin	General imports					Imports for consumption				
	2004		2005			2004		2005		
	Year	January -	August	September	January -	Year	January -	August	September	January -
		September					September			
Base bullion:										
Canada	--	--	18	--	18	--	--	18	--	18
Mexico	3	3	--	--	--	3	3	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	10
Total	3	3	18	--	29	3	3	18	--	29
Pigs and bars:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	18,800	13,700	12,200	2,750	5,680	32,800
Canada	166,000	114,000	11,800	8,380	135,000	166,000	114,000	11,800	8,380	135,000
Mexico	8,810	8,000	3,530	1,790	11,100	8,810	8,000	3,530	1,790	11,100
Peru	7,270	4,450	2,880	2,520	16,000	7,270	4,450	2,880	2,520	16,000
Other	1,310	1,260 <sup>r</sup>	2,030	6,620	20,500	1,450	1,380 <sup>r</sup>	2,030	6,620	20,500
Total	183,000	128,000	20,200	19,300	202,000	197,000	140,000	23,000	25,000	216,000
Grand total	183,000	128,000	20,300	19,300	202,000	197,000	140,000	23,000	25,000	216,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.